

Stephen Giesbrecht

From: Philip Hofstetter <phofstetter@PMC-HEALTH.ORG>
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 8:43 PM
To: Shelyn Bell; Erica Kludt-Painter
Cc: Stephen Giesbrecht; Karl Hagerman
Subject: Asymptomatic testing COVID-

Good evening:

Rural hospitals across the state are beginning to have difficulty transporting patients to higher levels of care. Some of my health professional colleagues across the state are completely overrun and having to make hard decisions on who to take care of and transport out. Additionally, there is a marked increase of COVID cases in congregate settings like Healthcare/LTC, Assisted Living Facilities and schools.

For this reason, I advocate Petersburg Schools and MVM Assisted Living develop a schedule of asymptomatic testing to protect everyone associated with these congregate settings. Staff acceptance can be a challenge, providing clear information so they understand the reasoning encourages participation.

While not perfect, asymptomatic testing is our best tool for early identification of someone who may be asymptotically spreading the virus to the most vulnerable under our care. PMC has recently had a couple of staff cases picked up by our asymptomatic testing process. By taking the most cautious approach with these cases, we can protect the services that are so important to our patients and this community. Our schools and assisted living are valuable to our community as well.

We are coming into a precarious period, indoor activities, students and families traveling, inside social gatherings, and a long period of Covid impacts leading to a more relaxed approach to protectionary precautions.

PMC will provide any support you need to develop a program that your staff will support. We need to work together to catch silent cases in your facility. Let me know your thoughts!

Thank you.

-Phil

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